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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assignment of Lands

Assignment of S. No. 203 of Melpulam village, Arkonam taluk, in prejudice to public interests.

446 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one cent of S. No. 203 of Melpulam village in Arkonam taluk was assigned away recently;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this assignment is prejudicial to the public interests as it blocks up the right of way to the tope to the west of it; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that for over fifteen years endeavours were made to get this plot assigned and that successive officers dismissed the application for assignment?

A.— (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

Public Service

Alleged ill-treatment of the Thattans of British Malabar.

447 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Thattan community of British Malabar that they are being treated by the caste people therein as untouchables and that their community may be included in the list of depressed classes for purposes of public service; and

(*b*) what orders the Government have passed on it?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No such representation has been received by the Government.

General

Alleged seizure of Congress flags by the Police in the Chittoor district.

448 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the flags of the Congress people at Kuppam or elsewhere in the Chittoor district were seized by the Police and if so, when and under whose orders; and

(*b*) whether any of the Congress people complained before the Kuppam Sub-Magistrate against the Police that they forcibly took away their flags, and if so, with what results?

A.—(*a*) Flags were seized in Kuppam on the 23rd August and the 15th September 1931 by the Sub-Inspector of Police. No special orders to seize flags were issued by any higher authority.

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(b) A complaint was preferred in the Sub-Magistrate's Court, charging the Sub-Inspector of Police with theft of a flag under section 379, Indian Penal Code. The complaint was dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

Order under section 144, *Criminal Procedure Code, issued by the Sub-Magistrate, Chittoor, on* 11*th July* 1931.

449 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, issued by the Sub-Magistrate of Chittoor on 11th July 1931 against Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar and others was obtained by the District Superintendent of Police, from the Sub-Magistrate, without the knowledge of and contrary to the instructions of the District Magistrate; and

(*b*) whether the District Magistrate had promised the President and Secretary, District Congress Committee, Chittoor, to set aside the order on his return to Chittoor on the 29th July 1931 from camp and whether he did so, and if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) The order which was dated the 12th July 1931 was passed by the Sub-Magistrate of Chittoor on an application made by the Circle Inspector of Police. The District Magistrate had no knowledge of it until after the order was passed. He had not issued any instructions in the matter.

(*b*) The District Magistrate made no such promise.

Order under section 144, *Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting the flag salutation ceremony fixed for the* 30*th August* 1931.

450 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was served by the Sub-Magistrates of Chittoor, Kuppam, Tiruttani and Puttur on August 30th or thereabout that the Congress flag salutation should not take place on the 30th of August;

(*b*) what were the facts which led to the passing of the above orders;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate sent round a circular to all Subordinate Magistrates that the Gandhi-Irwin Pact has been cancelled;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate of Chittoor directed all the subordinate officers of the Police of the district to watch all the Congress volunteers and members as persons constituting a grave menace to the peace of the district;

(*e*) whether the District Superintendent of Police ordered all the police to be ready for lathi charges and undergo training for the same;

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(f) on what facts the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate made such regulations and arrangements;

(g) whether the Government of Madras issued orders to the Chittoor authorities to take such action and if so, for what reason;

(h) whether the Government issued any instructions to the district authorities for the observance of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact; and

(i) whether the Government issued any instructions to the local authorities to prevent the flag hoisting ceremony on the 30th August and if so, the reasons therefor ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer to question No. 437.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No.

(h) Immediately after the announcement of the settlement with the Congress the Government issued certain instructions with a view to implementing the settlement.

(i) No.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* DISPENSING WITH THE SERVICES OF TEMPORARY STAFF IN THE CENTRAL SURVEY OFFICE.

* Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" Mr. President, Sir, under Standing Order 12 noon. 19 of the Madras Legislative Council, I beg leave of this House to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely—

' *the recent order of the Board of Revenue asking the Director of the Central Survey Office, Madras, to dispense with the services of all the temporary staff in that department, who number over five hundreds.*' "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the Government prepared to make any statement ? "

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I cannot give much information, Sir. I understand a notice has been issued to the temporary staff in the Survey department in anticipation of the fact that there will have to be retrenchment but which members of the temporary staff will be actually sent away, has, I understand, not yet been definitely settled. "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think that as the matter relates only to temporary establishment and as it is said to be under the consideration of the Retrenchment Committee, I cannot hold the motion to be in order."